

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7363

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PGOV, GR

SUBJ: PRE-TRAIL INVESTIGATION OF APRIL 21 COUP

LEADERS COMPLETED

REF: ATHENS 915

1. MUCH-PUBLICIZED INVESTIGATION AND INTERROGATION OF APRIL 21, 1967 COUP LEADERS CAME TO CLOSE FEBRUARY 6 WITH TESTIMONY OF LT. GENERAL (R) GREGORY SPANDIDAKIS, WHO WAS CHIEF OF HELLENIC ARMY AT THAT TIME AND IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER. HOWEVER, SPANDIDAKIS SUCCESSFULLY REFUTED CHARGES OF HIGH TREASON AND INSURRECTION AND WAS NOT REMANDED IN CUSTODY. THIS LEAVES THE SCOREBOARD AT EIGHT OF THE ORIGINAL COUP-MAKERS DETAINED; TWO AT PRESENT ABROAD, REPORTEDLY EVADING INTERROGATION; AND EIGHT WHO WERE INTERROGATED BUT LEFT FREE, AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT.

2. INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE NOW HAS RELAXED SCHEDULE INDICATING GOG INTENDS TO TAKE BREATH BEFORE BRINGING ACCUSED TO TRIAL. MEANWHILE GOG INVESTIGATIONS OF TORTURE DURING MILITARY REGIME BY SECURITY AUTHORITIES, OF FINANCIAL SCANDALS INVOLVING JUNTA, AND OF POLYTECHNION RIOTS IN NOVEMBER, 1973, CONTINUE. AS PREVIOUSLY

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REPORTED, GOG IS ALSO SYSTEMATICALLY REVIEWING

"JUNTIKI" CHARGES AGAINST SIZEABLE NUMBER OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS, EDUCATORS AND DIPLOMATS. GENERAL REVIEW OF FILES OF CIVIL SERVANTS AND HEADS OF VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS, INSTITUTIONS, UNIONS, ETC IS ALSO TAKING PLACE.

3. PRESS REPORTED WIDELY EARLIER THIS WEEK STATEMENT, ATTRIBUTED TO RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT CIRCLES, WHICH CAUTIONS AGAINST ZEAL OF "JUNTIKI" WITCH-HUNTERS WHO ARE SERVING THEIR OWN PURPOSES AND NOT ASSISTING GOG IN EFFORT TO BRING PROMPTLY TO JUSTICE ALL WHO WERE APPOINTED BY AND WORKED WITH APRIL 21 COUP GROUP. STATEMENT ADDED THAT 108,000 FUNCTIONARIES AND OFFICIALS OF VARIOUS CATEGORIES HAD ALREADY BEEN FIRED BY ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION AND PENALTIES HANDED DOWN THROUGH JURIDICAL PROCESS WOULD BE SET EXAMPLE RATHER THAN TO RENDER VENGEANCE.

4. THIS STATEMENT AND DELIBERATELY PACED INVESTIGATIVE PROCESS APPEAR DESIGNED TO TAMP DOWN STREET DEMONSTRATIONS WHICH CONSTANTLY ARE CALLING FOR "DEJUNTIZATION" AS WELL AS CALLS BY SOME OPPOSITION DEPUTIES FOR MORE DECISIVE GOG ACTION.
KUBISCH

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